

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

S E C R E T STATE 027334

NODIS

FOL REPEAT OF JIDDA 0831 TO SECSTATE FEB 4

QTE:

S E C R E T JIDDA 0831

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, SA, EG, US

SUBJECT: TRAINING OF EGYPTIANS IN SAUDI F-5 PROGRAM

REF STATE 22428 (CAIRO 1212), STATE 20008 (JIDDA 0607)

1. CHIEF OF U.S. MILITARY TRAINING MISSION (USMTM), GENEREZ AHMANN, INFORMED EMBASSY FEB 4 THAT ON FEB 3 THE EGYPTIAN PILOTS IN THE F-5 TRAINING PROGRAM BEGAN A 10-DAY TOUR OF AIR BASES AT TAIF, RIYADH AND JIDDA.

2. THE NINE MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS, HOWEVER, SHOW NO DISPOSITION TO STOP THEIR TRAINING. FOR THIS GROUP, UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, CLASSROOM TECHNICAL TRAINING (CTT) WOULD TERMINATE ON FEB 11, AFTER WHICH THEY WOULD NORMALLY COMMENCE APPROXIMATELY FOUR WEEKS OF ON-THE-JOB

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TRAINING (OJT) UNDER U.S. CONTRACTOR.

3. TO AVOID THIS SITUATION, AND IN AN ATTEMPT AT LEAST TO GAIN MORE TIME, USMTM HAS MODIFIED OJT PROGRAM SO THAT EACH TECHNICIAN WOULD BE ASSIGNED TO ONE RSAF INSTRUCTOR. WHILE THERE ARE NO FULLY QUALIFIED OJT RSAF INSTRUCTORS, USMTM HAS SELECTED THE MOST NEARLY QUALIFIED IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY ASSIGNMENT OF U.S. INSTRUCTORS. USMTM POINTS OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE OJT PROGRAM IS AN OPERATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM IN A FIGHTER AND MAINTENANCE WING WITH A FULLY INTEGRATED U.S./RSAF OPERATION. THIS OJT ARRANGEMENT IS LESS SEPARATE AND DEFINED THAN THE CLASSROOM TECHNICAL TRAINING. IT WOULD INVOLVE SOME INCIDENTAL (BUT NOT TRAINING) CONTACT BETWEEN EGYPTIAN TECHNICIANS AND US NORTHROP PERSONNEL.

4. IF THIS PROCEDURE IS SATISFACTORY TO THE DEPARTMENT, NO FURTHER APPROACHES WOULD NEED TO BE MADE BY AMEMBASSY CAIRO TO GOE IN ANTICIPATION OF FEB 11 DATE. IF IT IS NOT, ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO SUSPEND TECHNICIAN TRAINING SHOULD TAKE PLACE.

5. WE WILL REPORT AGAIN ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE PILOTS WHEN THEY COMPLETE THEIR TOUR OF SAUDI AIR BASES.

6. COMMENT: USMTM CHIEF HAS OBSERVED TO THE EMBASSY THAT FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS USMTM'S RELATIONS WITH RSAF OFFICERS HAVE BEEN NOTICABLY LESS COOPERATIVE AND FRIENDLY. HE BELIEVES THAT WHILE PART OF THIS IS UNDOUBTEDLY DUE TO CERTAIN ONGOING MILITARY NEGOTIATIONS, THESE OFFICERS ARE ALSO DISTURBED AND CONFUSED BY THE SITUATION REGARDING EGYPTIAN TRAINING. WE RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT APPROVAL OF THE ARRANGEMENTS PROPOSED FOR THE EGYPTIAN OJT PROGRAM.

7. PLEASE REPEAT TO EMBASSY CAIRO.
PORTER UNQTE INGERSOLL

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